

2013 MBC Annual Meeting Schedule

1st Session, Tuesday Morning, October 29, 2013

8:30	Call to Order	David Hamilton
	Congregational Praise	James Francis
	Scripture Reading, Testimony and Prayer	Ron Mumbower
9:00	Organization of the Convention	David Hamilton
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	
	Committee on Order of Business Report	John Temple
	Announcement of Credentials and Tellers Committees	David Hamilton
	Welcome	Bob Gladney
9:15	Congregational Praise	James Francis
9:20	Report of Committee on Committees	Barry Corbett
9:25	Bible Treasures	Charles T. Carter
9:50	Presentations of Resolutions	
9:55	Congregational Praise	James Francis
10:00	Business Session:	
	Election of the President	David Hamilton
10:20	Convention Board Report	Matt Buckles
10:30	Congregational Praise	James Francis
10:35	Christian Action Commission Report	Jimmy Porter
10:45	Concert of Praise	Sanctuary Choir
		West Heights BC, Pontotoc
10:55	President's Address	David Hamilton
11:30	Benediction	Riley Brown

2nd Session, Tuesday Afternoon, October 29, 2013

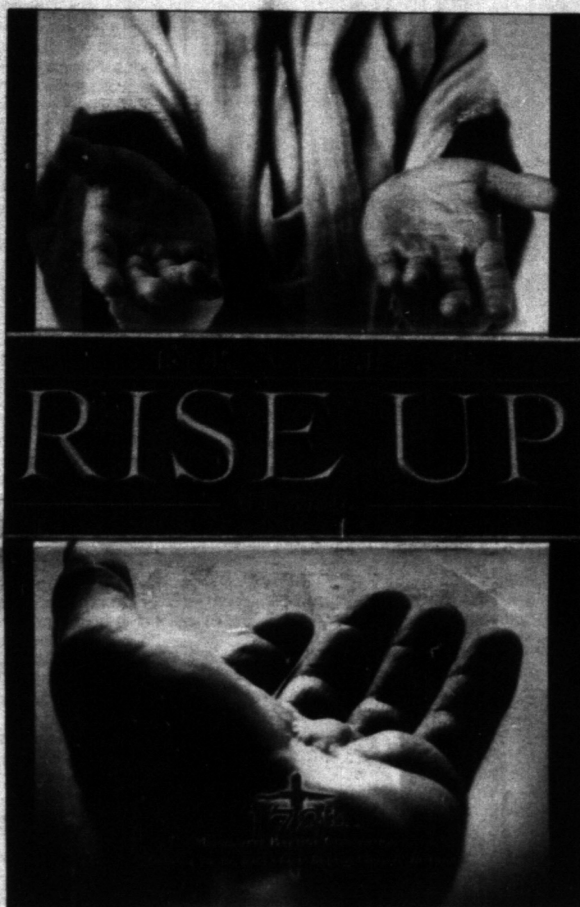
1:30	Concert of Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
1:45	Call to Order	Joe Pate
	Congregational Praise	Tom Jenkins
	Scripture Reading, Testimony and Prayer	Stephen Smith
2:10	Bible Treasures	Charles T. Carter
2:35	Concert of Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
2:45	Business Session	David Hamilton
	Presentation of 2014 Budget	Charles Moore
	Results of Election as President	
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Presentation of Resolutions	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:10	Music Feature	Sanctuary Choir, FBC Starkville
3:15	Business Session	David Hamilton
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Miscellaneous Business	
3:30	Church Planting Report	Gary Adams
3:40	Congregational Praise	Tom Jenkins
3:45	Missions Mobilization	Ken Rhodes
3:55	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, FBC Starkville
4:05	Convention Sermon	Chip Stevens
4:40	Benediction	Frank Gunn

3rd Session, Tuesday Evening, October 29, 2013

6:30	Choral Praise	Combined Choirs
6:35	Call to Order	David Hamilton
	Final Presentation of Resolutions	
	Congregational Praise and Worship	Mike Harland
	Scripture Reading, Testimony and Prayer	Steve Davis
7:00	Choral Praise	Combined Choirs
7:10	Congregational Praise and Worship	Mike Harland
7:15	Choral Praise	Combined Choirs
7:25	Message	Jim Futral
8:00	Combined Choirs	
8:05	Benediction	L. Graham Smith

On the inside

For a list of area accommodations and preschool care available during the convention, see page 4.



4th Session, Wednesday Morning, October 30, 2013

8:30	Call to Order	Donnie Stuart
	Worship through Music	Derrick Cowan and Forgiven Quartet
	Scripture Reading, Testimony and Prayer	Alan Woodward
8:55	Memorial Service	Bruce Cappleman
9:05	Mississippi Baptist Foundation Report	Daniel Hall
9:15	Introduction of College Presidents	David Hamilton
9:20	William Carey University Report	Tommy King
9:30	Worship through Music	Derrick Cowan and Forgiven Quartet
9:35	Bible Treasures	Charles T. Carter
10:05	Business Session	David Hamilton
	Adoption of 2014 Budget	Charles Moore
	Committee on Nominations Report	James M. Lewis
	Time, Place, and Preacher Committee Report	Dan Howard
	Resolutions Committee Report	Philip Price
	Miscellaneous Business	David Hamilton
10:30	Baptist Children's Village Report	Rory Lee
10:40	Music Feature	Forgiven Quartet
10:50	Message	Ken Whitten
11:30	Closing Remarks	David Hamilton
11:35	Benediction	Breck Ladd

Messenger cards

Messenger cards for the 178th Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 29-30, 2013, will be mailed directly to the churches the second week of October. Each church will receive the number of cards they are eligible for according to the guidelines of the Constitution.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention's constitution states:

Each church in friendly co-operation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and having contributed to world missions through the Cooperative Program during the preceding convention year shall be entitled to two messengers for the first one hundred members of its membership or fraction thereof.

One additional messenger from each church shall be allowed for each additional one hundred members, or major fraction thereof, but no church shall be entitled to more than ten messengers.

Membership information is based on the 2012 Annual Church Profile. If you have questions, please call Executive Administration at 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 201 or 601-292-3201.

Inside

Directions

Sunday School

Lessons

Editorial

Bibliography

How to Become

a Christian

Revivals &

Homecoming

Just for the

Classifieds

SEP 30 2013

SEP 30 2013

SEP 30 2013

SEP 30 2013

SEP 30 2013



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Created by space junk

Scientists have announced that they have another (yes, another) theory about how life began on earth. One loses count, doesn't one?

According to a recent news article promulgated by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Ca., researchers have found that colliding comets may well have seeded the planet with the building blocks of life, namely amino acids that are critical components of proteins that are critical components of...., well, you get the picture that all of this culminates in scientists' minds with the introduction of humanity after a couple million years of evolution.

Nir Goldman, a researcher at the national laboratory who holds a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley, has argued since at least 2010 that a cataclysmic collision of a pair of comets, or an equally cataclysmic collision between a comet and earth, could have contained enough prebiotic (before life) materials and sufficient energy to spark production of those useful amino acids.

According to the news article, collaborators from Imperial College in London and the University of Kent conducted a series of experiments very similar to Goldman's previous simulations in which a projectile was fired using a light gas gun into a typical cometary ice mixture. The British researchers reported it was their conclusion that several different types of amino acids were formed.

"These results confirm our earlier predictions of impact synthesis of prebiotic material, where the impact itself can yield life-building compounds," Goldman said in the article. "Our work provides a realistic additional synthetic production pathway for the components of proteins in our solar system, expanding the inventory of locations where life could potentially originate."

Ahem. To reduce that lofty explanation to something even a newspaper editor could understand, it would appear Goldman is saying cometary collisions

could create life in any number of places, in any number of ways, at any time.

What Goldman didn't say, and probably didn't intend to say since he is a scientist, is that this is yet another theory that effectively eliminates the involvement of God in our creation. If comets can randomly collide and form life that results in us in two or three thousand millennia, who needs a Creator?

Furthermore, if we can be formed almost anywhere in the universe from a chance, high-speed encounter with what amounts to an interstellar ice cube, we aren't very special, are we? Life could happen anywhere, given the right conditions and a pair of giant, frozen dust balls converging in space, so who are we to consider ourselves God's highest creation?

Goldman and his collaborators being scientists, it's highly likely that they intentionally avoided injecting any religiosity into the conclusions of their carefully controlled experiments. However, there are plenty of other people who will take this opportunity to bolster their argument against divine creation, and many people will be led astray.

What's wrong with what the Bible has to say about creation? Why couldn't it have occurred as the Bible describes? It's not only possible, but a fact that God was involved and that creation happened just as the Bible depicts it. There may be a whole lot of details we don't understand about the process, but we know inarguably that God created us — and everything else.

The story goes that a group of scientists approached God and smugly announced, "Sir, we have studied and experimented for years, and we now understand how mankind came to be. We no longer need You. We know how to create life without You, and we are going to proceed to show You."

With that, the scientists confidently scooped up a hefty handful of soil and began to form it into a man.

"Wait a minute," God said. "Use your own dirt."

Global warming talk cooling off

OK, so did anyone else read about the leaked copy of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sixth assessment on climate change?

The IPCC report is due at the end of the month, and for true believers in climate change it is an inconvenient truth. The report admits and cannot explain why there has been no significant increase in world average temperatures since 1997, and it admits that IPCC scientists' computer models have been dramatically wrong.

It also appears that the world is much less sensitive to changes in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Consequently, any rise in temperatures from an increased amount of CO₂ may take a number of decades. Nonetheless, IPCC scientists believe there is a 95% chance that climate change (such as it is) is a man-made phenomenon.

The Daily Mail in London reported Sept. 14 that Judith Curry, head of climate science at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, said the leaked summary for policymakers showed that "the science is clearly not settled, and is in a state of flux.... The consensus-seeking process used by the IPCC creates and amplifies biases in the science. It should be abandoned in favour of a more traditional review that presents arguments for and against — which would better support scientific progress, and be more useful for policy makers."

In a conversation with a true believer in climate change last year, I was asked why I did not believe in it since I have a strong science background. After all, I tested aircraft and spacecraft as a United States Air Force officer and engineer for 12 years and two more as a commercial space launch contractor.

I told him there was something about the way the science was done that left me suspicious of the claims. In other words, it did not pass the "sniff test."

He replied, "That is not very scientific." Since he did not have any kind of science background, he could not appreciate my instincts about the methodologies that were being used. There are many others who now are saying the exact same thing that I thought.

What are the practical implications of all of this? First, there is no reason for green fuels (which pollute more than gas). There is no reason to stop using coal as an energy source. Since there is no energy cri-



Guest opinion with Craig Mitchell

sis or environmental crisis, energy prices can fall.

Secondly, this also means that there is less need for a federal Department of Energy and an Environmental Protection Agency.

Finally, we can stop worrying about human overpopulation of the earth. What is most ridiculous about this fear is that by 2050 human population will be in decline everywhere.

Even worse than those scientists with wrong theories are those who, while lacking a scientific background, also have a flawed theology.

Some of these believe that "Mother Earth" is a fragile creature, or perhaps they believe that God designed this world to be so unstable that He could not sustain it with man as the dominant species. They seem to neglect the fact that we live in a fallen world.

In Genesis 1, we find that the world is designed by God to sustain life in general, and human life in particular. God created man after His image and made man the steward of the created order.

This does not mean we can be irresponsible with the world's resources or its environment, but it does mean that we don't have to keep scaring our kids about something that is not going to happen.

Our God is one we can trust with our future. After all, this world is not our eternal home.

Rather than focusing on global warming (or cooling), we should focus on more important ethical issues such as abortion and euthanasia. Most importantly, we must never lose sight of giving the Gospel to the lost.

Mitchell is associate professor of cultural studies at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth and director of the seminary's Land Center for Cultural Engagement. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

THE BaptistRecord

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc
Barry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian
Billie Buckley, Petal
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



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Church plants different idea for reaching neighbors

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (BP) — A rural concept has taken root at a urban church in Philadelphia, Pa., as an outreach to its neighbors.

An urban garden at Philadelphia's The Foundry Church naturally provided an abundance of teachable moments, along with a 500-pound annual yield of fresh produce. The next step, pastor Chuck Kieffer thought, would be "Garden Camp," an urban gardening-based Vacation Bible School.

"We teach gardening techniques and nutrition, which are easy to bridge to biblical concepts of our Creator," said Kieffer, a North American Mission Board (NAMB) church planter. "Doesn't every church have some piece of ground they are not using? Every church can do this."

To help operate a food pantry, the church uses resources from Southern Baptists' Global Hunger Relief (GHR), formerly the World Hunger Fund. GHR funding also is used in delivering food to shut-ins and distributing bread on the streets. Everything is done to help open doors for the Gospel.

Global Hunger Relief is challenging a new generation of believers to personally take Jesus' love, in both word and deed, to starving souls.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell said NAMB's close work with Southern Baptist state partners "has given us many opportuni-



UNIQUE VBS — Children enjoy a mix of outdoor fun and urban farming through an urban garden-based Vacation Bible School at The Foundry Church in Philadelphia, Pa.. Garden Camp has been so successful that the church plans to publish an e-book as a guide for churches to reproduce the outreach. (BP photo courtesy of Michael Kelley)

ties to be sure underserved communities in North America are receiving food for the hungry and a chance to experience the hope found in Christ."

GHR is one of the avenues NAMB's LoveLoud initiative

uses to help churches discover how to help neglected neighbors, neglected communities, and neglected children. The desire behind LoveLoud ultimately is to see people like Amjad (not his real name) led to faith in Christ.

Last year on Oct. 5, Canada's Thanksgiving Day, Rendezvous Church in Toronto hosted a meal for immigrants, including Amjad, a new arrival from Iran. The night before, Amjad's mother called him from Iran to say she

had dreamed a group of Americans were coming to share Jesus with him the next day.

The next day, a North Carolina mission team arrived to help prepare and serve the Thanksgiving meal at Rendezvous for 60 community residents. Amjad could not believe his mother's dream had come true. He sat for hours listening to the Gospel shared by his new American friends.

Hunger funds do more than provide meals. They open doors to the Gospel. Both are tremendous needs in many North American communities.

"We live in an area in Philadelphia that is a true paradox," Kieffer said. "We are just a few blocks from some of the wealthiest residents of the city, but within our immediate area one out of three children go to bed hungry each night. We have to do something to help feed them and reach them for Christ."

The Foundry Church, a Send North America: Philadelphia multiplying partner, plans to release an e-book on how churches can incorporate LoveLoud outreaches like urban gardens and Garden Camp VBS into their ministries.

Editor's note: Ideas for promoting World Hunger Sunday, to be observed across the Southern Baptist Convention on Oct. 13 this year, are available at www.worldhungerfund.com.

Kelley recognized for 30 years' service to NOBTS

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), was honored for 30 years on the faculty during the seminary's fall convocation service.

Kelley, who also serves as an evangelism professor at the seminary, was recognized Sept. 3 along with Gerald Stevens, professor of New Testament and Greek, who marks 25 years at the seminary, and several others.

Tom Harrison, chairman of the NOBTS board of trustees and executive pastor of Broadmoor Church in Shreveport, La., offered a special word for Kelley and other faculty members celebrating anniversaries.

"As part of the trustees, it's a great pleasure to recognize these men and women who have served here so faithfully," Harrison said. "These men and women have sought to do that in each of our lives so that we can go out and be a greater part of the Kingdom of God."

During his tenure at NOBTS, Kelley has served as professor of evangelism, chair of the division of pastoral ministries, director of the Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health, and now president.

He challenged those present to remain faithful to God's call, even when

"I'll never forget that moment in the classroom two weeks after classes began when I had the experience of seeing exactly why God wanted me here and the realization that God had been preparing me all my life for this."

Chuck Kelley

president of New Orleans Seminary

that call is different than expected, and shared his personal road to serving on the NOBTS faculty.

"I did not ever in my life imagine the role of seminary professor for me," Kelley said. "I came to seminary to be an evangelist."

Kelley said it was longtime professor Joe Cothen who first asked him to consider teaching. "Now, to be 30 years old and offered the opportunity to teach and be on the faculty of one of the largest seminaries



CHUCK KELLEY

in all the world was a great honor and a great privilege," Kelley said.

Kelley said he wasn't initially interested in the offer, particularly because it was not what he wanted to do in ministry, but through talking with his wife Rhonda and with other mentors and counselors in his life, Kelley was convinced that joining the NOBTS faculty was God's will.

Still reluctant, he hit the road for the

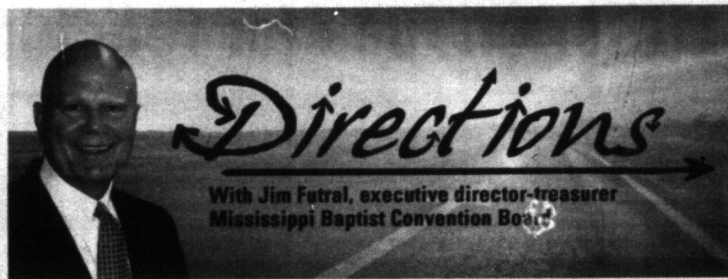
entire summer speaking at youth events. He didn't return until 2 a.m. the day of faculty workshops.

"That was as long as I could put it off," he recalled. "I'll never forget that moment in the classroom two weeks after classes began when I had the experience of seeing exactly why God wanted me here and the realization that God had been preparing me all my life for this."

While attending the 2013 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Texas, I had an interesting and ear opening experience. While the Convention went well, it was not a Convention related experience. Across from the hotel where I was staying there was a park with flowers, shrubs and walking trails. As I walked over to the park, I noticed a strange looking concrete apparatus. It looked somewhat like a large satellite dish, but it was made out of concrete. When I got closer to it, I noticed that at the bottom of whatever it was there was a concrete seat. Then I saw the little sign in front of it that said, "Listening Vessels." No one was out there and that was all the instructions that I had so I paused long enough to sit down. I saw directly in front of me about 50 to 60 feet away another one of the concave concrete pieces facing toward me. I wondered what kind of game this was or what kind of activity was I supposed to be involved in, and suddenly I began to hear in ways that were different and unusual.

There was a jet flying nearby, and it sounded like it was flying right beside me. I could see it way off in the sky and I realized that this strange looking device was picking up the sounds and magnifying them in my ear. As the plane moved on, I heard some birds chirping and singing. They were some distance away, but it sounded as though they were right there on my shoulder. Then I noticed two men walking by. They were probably 100 yards in front of me. They were talking and I could hear what they were saying. It was a pretty amazing thing. The very design of these two concrete pieces of equipment was to allow someone to sit in one and someone to sit in the other, talk in a low voice and clearly hear each other. They called the two things listening vessels.

In the brief moments that I sat there and heard these new amplified sounds around me, I could not help but think about Jesus who said about a dozen times during His ministry, "He that hath ears



Listening Vessels

to hear, let him hear." I thought about all of the times when we do not hear. It is a fact that oftentimes people are not tuned in and do not hear though they have ears. So Jesus, the Master Teacher, brings a huge responsibility to each one of us that we have an obligation to not just hear but to listen. In essence, what Jesus was telling the people of His day and conveying to us is that we need to enhance our hearing and comprehension of what God is trying to say to us. But how do you go about doing that?

One way is to focus and pay attention. We need to get logged in to what God is trying to say to us. For people who fly often, you know that you quickly get adjusted to not listening to the folks on the plane whether it is the flight attendant or someone else explaining what to do in the emergencies that might come up. I think that the law requires them to do it, but the law cannot make you pay attention. And so if you look around you find that if you are listening, you are probably the only one who is actually paying attention. I have heard that before you takeoff spiel umpteen times.

The fact is that I had never been in a situation where the oxygen mask fell

down, or I had to get the seat of the plane to use as a flotation device, or I had to evacuate the airplane quickly at the exit in front or in back of me until one day I was on an overseas flight. As we were about to land, they came over the intercom and explained to us that it had been reported that we had a bomb on board. The implied message was if we were able to get off of the plane at all, we would have to deplane way down at the end of the runway. The explanation about what we needed to do was given one more time. This time I listened.

In a world where it seems like every day holds the potential for a blowout and a blowup, you would think that we would be focused on tuning in to listen to God. Sadly, too many people are not listening. They treat the Lord as though He is just background noise to the activities of the day. They are not focused on Him and His Word to them. Then when life's explosions come, they wonder why they did not listen.

To enhance your listening you must focus and you must filter. Filters are good things whether they are the ones that you use as you make your coffee, purify your water or keep wrong things

from being on your computer. When it comes to our hearing and especially hearing from God, it is important that we recognize the need for filters that keep out many of the sounds, noises and discord of this world that can blur our understanding of what God may be trying to say to us. It is not that He is not speaking. It is that we are not listening.

Sometimes we do not listen and cannot comprehend because of all of the other noises that are filling our ears and clogging our brainwaves. How do you filter out all of that noise? Well, it is not easy, but I would suggest that you have some deliberate committed time when you push all of those noises aside and listen intently to the voice of God speaking to your heart.

Now that brings me to the final thing that will enhance your hearing and that is to fix. God is always involved in our lives and constantly dealing with us about things in our lives that may need to be dealt with or removed, or other things that may need to be looked at and included. Here is the problem. So often when we hear God speak, we take that as the ultimate of what He wants to do just to speak to us. We take no action to change anything, to move in a new direction or to reach out to someone else. We just think that hearing is enough and the Bible says that the goal is not just to hear. The goal is to let God do something in your life. The goal is to fix whatever He is speaking to us about and let Him come and make a difference in that area of our life, relationship or attitude.

I wanted to load up one of the listening vessels and bring it home with me, but it looked like that it weighed several tons so I did not try to pick it up. But since then I have tried to be more intent on my hearing being in focus, filtered and ready to fix whatever it is that the Lord is speaking to me about.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Area Accommodations

Hotel/Motel Rates effective for the October 27-29 time period. Please note that convention attendees are responsible for making their own reservations. Cutoff date for the rates listed is October 6; rates will go up after October 6. When you ask for reservations, be sure to tell them you are attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Baymont

601-932-6030
434 Riverwind Drive
Pearl, MS 39208
\$74.00 Single/ Double
per night + 9% tax
Hot breakfast

Cabot Lodge Millsaps

601-948-8650
2375 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39202
\$94.00 Single / Double
per night + 11% tax
+ .75 OT Hot/cold breakfast

Cabot Lodge Jackson/North

601-957-0757
120 Dyess Road
Ridgeland, MS 39157
\$94.00 Single/ Double
per night + 8% tax
Hot/cold breakfast

Comfort Inn

601-932-4141
1226 Phillips Lane
Pearl, MS 39288
\$104.00 Single/Double
per night + 9% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Country Inn & Suites

601-420-2244
3051 White Blvd.
Pearl, MS 39208
\$70.00 Single/ Double
per night + 9% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Hampton Inn

601-932-7676
1234 Phillips Street
Pearl, MS 39288

\$104.00 Single/Double
per night + 9% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Hilton Garden Inn

601-933-1174
438 Riverwind Drive
Pearl, MS 39208
\$119.00 Single/ Double
per night + 9% tax
Breakfast \$5.00 per person

Holiday Inn Express

601-936-7005
100 Riverwind E. Drive
Pearl, MS 39208
\$104.00 Single/Double
per night + 9% tax
Free Hot Breakfast

Holiday Inn Hotel

601-939-5238
110 Bass Pro Drive
Pearl, MS 39288
\$109.00 Single/Double
per night + 9% tax
Breakfast - Varied price
from menu

Preschool Care at Convention

Preschool care will be available for children by pre-registration, ages birth through five, at First Baptist Church, Jackson, during the Pastors' Conference and the Mississip-

pi Baptist Convention, October 28, noon - October 30, 2013. Call Michelle Sansing, Child-care Coordinator, at 601-949-1997 to pre-register. All children must be pre-registered by Monday, October 21, 2013.

The preschool departments are located on the street level off North State Street.

Following are the procedures:

1. Pre-register, giving name and age of each child, the parent, and the church.
2. Pick up a security card for each child on arrival.
3. Be sure all belongings are labeled.
4. For infants, leave a time schedule for feeding.
5. Leave the children no earlier than 15 minutes before the beginning of a session and pick them up no later than 15 minutes after the close of the session.

Children may remain in the preschool area during the Convention lunch break on Tuesday if parents provide a sack lunch.

Common Core Education in Mississippi

Mississippi's approach to K-12 education has been under scrutiny in the news, in educational circles and in local communities. Parents and grandparents, as well as educators and legislators, have been questioning an "agreement" that the MS Board of Education (the Board) unanimously entered into with the U.S. Department of Education.

Many people are concerned about the standards and other educational elements. They claim the standards are untested, unproven and will result in a further decline in schools. The curriculum is said to contain morally objectionable and pornographic content. It is alleged that the Board enacted demoralizing, race-based performance criteria. These claims have been investigated and the concerns are valid.

There are four educational tools that are of concern. First is the standards or learning goals students are expected to achieve. The second is the curriculum or textbooks. The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment that measures a school's performance is the third. The fourth is the longitudinal data system that collects students' data.

The MS Department of Education (MDE) stated that 44 states initially adopted the standards and assessment, but about half of them are now in various stages of rejecting it and/or its related components. Also, several MS Legislators have been educating the public on these problems, and they have been calling for educational reforms in the 2014 session.

LT. Gov. Tate Reeves recently opposed legislative action to address these issues. He claimed the time to address these problems "was four years ago, when the department made the decision that was the direction they were going to head... For those individuals who were in the Legislature four years ago, who didn't say anything but now decided they are going to complain — shame on them."

It is more shameful for LT. Gov. Tate Reeves to stall or deny legislators a review of Common Core. Measures that deny legislators and the people they represent the constitutional right of due process is unethical and unjust. Intimidation and veiled threats should never be part of the democratic process.

The Speaker of the House, Phillip Gunn, has taken a different approach. Speaker Gunn has said, "I'm willing to take a step back and look at it, certainly, but I'm still trying to understand what all the objection is."

History

The beginning of Common Core Standards can be dated back to 2007 with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Since then, the Gates Foundation has awarded over \$27 million to trade associations with no governmental authority to promote the Common Core Standards initiative.

In 2008 the Gates Foundation funded these trade associations and others to write the report, *Benchmarking for Success*, to present the standards to the

Obama Administration. In February 2009 the federal "Stimulus Bill" set aside \$4.35 billion for states improving their educational standards. The US Department of Education (USDE) made these funds available through the *Race to the Top* state-based grant.

If a state did not win the grant, that state would still be committed to the USDE policies in the agreement. MS did not receive any Race to the Top grants, but the Board has committed MS to federally "conditioned" standards and more.

On February 22, 2010, President Obama said in a meeting to the National Governors Association that, "we're calling for a redesigned Elementary and Secondary Education Act that better aligns the federal approach to your state-led efforts... First, as a condition of receiving access to Title I funds [for low-income households], we will ask all states to put in place a plan to adopt and certify standards that are college and career-ready in reading and math."

MS could have upgraded their own standards without Common Core Standards and had them certified through IHL and developed their own assessment and still be in compliance to receive Title I funds.

In March 2010 the USDE stated that "Beginning in 2015 [that Title I] formula funds will be available only to states that are implementing assessments based on college and career ready standards." (In 2010 MS received over \$200 million in Title I funds.)

On June 25, 2010, minutes from the MS Board of Education stated that, "the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Common Core Standards [in English and Math]... based on finding of imminent peril to public welfare in the loss of substantial federal funds..." (It is alleged that the federal government's threat or induced fear of losing Title I funds was the basis for adopting the standards and the assessment that were so conveniently made available.)

In June 2010 the standards were published by the NGA and August 2010 was the federal deadline for *Race to the Top* grant applications. The MDE was committed to the standards in August. Two months is not much time for educators, parents and policy makers across the state to assess the standards. Was the narrow timeframe of this coincidental or intentional?

Common Core Standards

These standards are described by the MDE as "what students are expected to learn." Dr. Lynn House, Interim State Superintendent for the MDE, stated in a meeting on August 19, 2013, that "our [previous adopted educational goals or] standards are good but not where we need to be."

Dr. House has compared raising the standards to "When an Olympic high jumper wants to reach new heights, he doesn't leave the bar where it is and expect to meet that goal. To be competitive with other high jumpers, he must raise the bar. That's exactly what Common Core State

Standards will do... They will ensure that Mississippi's children are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive... [italics added].

This statement is a "statement of hypothesis." Notice the phrase, "will do" and "will ensure." Since these standards have never been tested, a casual reading of this would lead one to believe this statement is a tested, proven and factual statement. It is not.

The MDE reported in 2013 that 60% of the schools in MS graded "C" or lower, and 92 received an "F." Thirty of these failing schools are facing a state takeover or conservatorship. Consider these schools when pondering the following: If an Olympic high jumper has not been able to clear a 6' bar, then it defies natural reason that the jumper could clear a 6'4" bar. The Olympian, with help from a coach, must first master the 6' bar before raising it higher. Applying this type of logic to underperforming and failing schools is an educational recipe for disaster.

Dr. House conveniently admits that academic performance will initially be lower. She said that, "These are higher standards and when standards are raised, test results tend to be lower at first and then will improve."

Again, note the MDE's usage of the term of certainty, "will" improve. Still, again, the standards have never been tested. This is an empty promise. This is like saying, "we've never flown this new airplane before, but I anticipate once it's off the ground it will lose altitude at first. But, trust me—it won't crash!" Do you want to buckle your children's and grandchildren's educational future into this plane?

Curriculum

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison is on Common Core's exemplary reading list and in MS public schools. This book demonstrates hardcore, sadistic and pornographically explicit material that details a step-by-step account of sexual intercourse and incestuous pedophilia (ref: 84-85, 130-131, 148-149, 162-163, 174, 181). Is this the type of literary stimulation you want exposed to your children and grandchildren? It is apparent that the judgment of a Common Core validation panel of "experts," who placed a book like this on a recommended reading list, cannot be trusted.

Assessment

Mississippi has shared these standards with 44 other states, and these states either joined one of two testing consortia or groups to gauge school performance. MS joined the PARCC consortium along with: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Washington DC, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. *Alabama and Georgia saw the problems with the standards and the testing and have withdrawn from the PARCC assess-*

ment. Other states (CO, FL, IN, LA, NY, OH, PA) are in discussions or introduced legislation to withdraw from or delay the standards and/or the assessments.

Race-Based Objectives

The MDE has said, "I believe that if we raise expectations, our students and educators will rise to meet those expectations." If this statement is true, then why is the MDE expecting less of certain racial subgroups in their Annual Measurement Objectives (AMO)?

At a bare minimum, it is morally degrading and degrading to suggest that it will take 12 more years (on top of the past 12 years of failed NCLB) for the lowest race-based subgroup to reach the equivalency of another. Based on the MDE's actions it follows that they believe it will take nearly a quarter-century for the lowest race-based subgroup to reach the level of the highest. This is an unjust and immoral attack on a student's psyche.

Conclusion

Based on research and analysis of the recently adopted educational components being implemented through the MS Department of Education, the conclusion was reached that there are valid, fundamental problems.

The primary problem is that the standards actually represent a *hypothesis only*. This means these standards have not been tested, there is no empirical data, and the outcome of the standards is at best an educated guess.

Furthermore, in keeping with the "scientific method" that requires the testing of the hypothesis, there have been none in any US public school. Therefore, the standards is not a *scientific theory*, and there is no valid basis for any claim that these standards will work. Pure reason dictates otherwise. Neither are the standards *scientifically valid* because the standards have not been proven to be just as effective in one state as they are in another. The one shoe fits all approach will not work.

A starting point could be that government officials work together in delaying further implementation of the standards and related components. Then, work together in full disclosure with the citizens and develop a solution that is just, fair and equitable. And in doing so, ensure that proposed solutions respect the Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which declares that "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

Our children will be used to determine if their educational theory will or will not work—unless citizens get informed, contact their elected officials, and hold them accountable.

The author of this analysis, Rob Chambers serves as consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or rchambers@christianaction.com.

Just for the Record



FREDONIA CHURCH, NEW ALBANY, held a mission recognition for GAs, RAs, and Acteens.



The women's ministry at **NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH, SUMMIT**, held a pumpkin painting.



The Women on Mission group of **CALVARY CHURCH, SUMMIT**, treated the Mission Friends, RAs, and GAs to a day of games and crafts, music, and hot dogs Sept. 7. Speakers included Courtney Carroll and Katelee Thomas; music with Jimmy Willoughby. Bobbin Dunaway, WOM director; Floyd Davis, pastor.

The GAs of **FIRST CHURCH, POTTS CAMP**, celebrated the 100th anniversary of Girls in Action, with cupcakes, punch, party bags, and other activities.



SUNRISE CHURCH, CARTHAGE, licensed Don Wallace as minister of music. Shown is Wallace and pastor David Addy.



DANIEL MEMORIAL CHURCH, JACKSON, licensed Caleb Foley and Scott Welch to the gospel ministry. Foley, student minister, is a MC graduate and plans to enter seminary in two years; Welch plans to enter seminary extension courses and is available for bivocational pastorates. Shown are pastor Lawrence Baylot, Foley, and Welch.



FIRST CHURCH, SAND HILL, licensed Josh Smith to the gospel ministry July 7. He is shown with pastor Ronnie Maxie.



MACEDONIA CHURCH, MYRTLE, recognized deacon James Shirley with a certificate of Deacon Emeritus for serving from 1972 to 2013. He also received a plaque for 47 years of church service. Shown are pastor Louie Williams, Shirley, and Brad Page.



FLOWOOD CHURCH, FLOWOOD, honored Louise Moore for her dedication of teaching children in the church's preschool division for 53 years. Shown are Moore and Sunday School director Mike Pollard.

Just for the Record

In other Church News:

► **Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle**, held its 5th annual Faith in Action Sunday. Members met Sept. 1 at 8:30 a.m. to deliver home-cooked meals to shut-ins, delivering socks and food to nursing home residents, picking up roadside trash, passing out light bulbs and smoke detectors, doing small repairs for needy families' homes, cutting grass, and doing odd jobs at Moselle Elementary School. Keith Thompson, pastor.

► **County Line Church, Overt**, will hold a Blessing of the Outdoors Oct. 5, 5:30 p.m. The event features a Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks enforcement officer conducting a Q&A, a big buck harvest (2 - 6 p.m.), door prizes including a gun, food and drinks.



CLARKSDALE CHURCH, CLARKSDALE, recognized and honored those who protect the city Sept. 8. Shown, from left, are Pat Wood, Wayne Steer, Obert Douglas, Whit Read, pastor Don Dunavant, Charles Jones, Bill Luckett, and Deputy Maddox.

Testimony COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



featuring
Bob Gavin,
Morgantown Baptist Church

CP advances the local church

"We want you to serve as Chairman of The Pastor Search Committee." A great honor, a tremendous responsibility, and a frightening challenge are just some of the emotions experienced with these words.

Having a pastor retiring from the pastorate after a 15 year ministry in our church meant we were all having a new experience and that we would need someone to assist during the process of finding a pastor. A contact was made with Dr. Bruce Cappleman, Director of Church-Minister Relations of The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

A training session for the committee was scheduled and Dr. Cappleman provided very valuable information to assist us. There are several outstanding points to be made in using these services, such as organization of the committee, being in prayer, schedules, etc. However, as I look back on the experience, the most important one was profiling our church and getting the whole church involved

in the process of finding a pastor.

Dr. Cappleman and his staff were significant in furnishing us with resumes, and did so in a timely manner. Bruce was always available when we felt discouraged because the process was not going fast enough. He encouraged us to not run ahead of God.

If we were in an old western movie, Bruce would be charging the "bad guys" on his big white horse, wearing the white hat, ready to save the day.

We at Morgantown Baptist Church are greatly indebted to the Church-Minister Relations Department for its assistance. Thank you for the Cooperative Program funds that support churches when they are without a pastor. CP advances the local church in finding and calling "God's man to God's church to do God's work."

To view this Cooperative Program Testimony online, please visit <http://www.mbc.org/cp/videos.aspx>

Staff Changes



Joey Gambrell has been licensed to the gospel ministry by **HEBRON CHURCH, MERIDIAN**, and is available for supply, interim, or pastoral positions. He can be reached at (601) 286-3742. He is shown with pastor Richard Wallace.



PINEVIEW CHURCH, LAUREL, has called Tim Nelson as pastor, shown with his wife Lisa.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, STURGIS, has called Eddie Painter as pastor. He grew up in West Point and has pastored in Van Fleet, Louisville, Quitman, Starkville, and Gloster. He comes from Barataria Church, Lafayette, La., he has a B.A. from Leavel College, a M.A. from The Caskey School of Divinity, Pineville, La., and is pursuing a Ph.D. from Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga, Tenn. He comes with his wife, Lisa. The Painters have two adult daughters, Elisabeth and Angel.



MELROSE CHURCH, BENTONIA, presented Wayne Long with a plaque honoring 15 years of service upon his retirement from the church. Shown are Hugh King, Lloyd Passons, Billy Robinson, Long, Dot Long, and Chris and Lindsey Brogdon.



Union leader expresses thanks to God for abortion

NASHVILLE (BP) — An American union leader publicly thanked God for legal abortion in a prayer in the Iowa State Capitol as at least two Democrat gubernatorial candidates looked on.

Iowa labor organizer Midge Slater prayed Aug. 28 as about 80 people protested a proposal before the Iowa Board of Medicine to require doctors to meet in person with women before giving them abortion drugs, thereby prohibiting Webcam, or "telemedicine," abortions.

Two Democratic candidates for governor were among those

with Slater when she prayed, "We give thanks and celebrate that abortion is still safe and legal."

The liberal Progress Iowa videored and The Washington Examiner reported the prayer, which also expressed gratitude to God for "the doctors, both current and future, who provide quality abortion care, and pray that they may be kept safe."

In addition, Slater prayed:

■ "For women for whom pregnancy is not good news, that they know they have choices;"

■ "For compassionate religious voices to speak out for the

dignity and autonomy of women;"

■ "For our daughters and granddaughters, that they will always know the power of making their own good decisions;"

■ "For the 45 million American women who have had safe, legal abortions. May they stand tall and refuse shame," and

■ "For elected officials, that they may always support a woman's right to make her own medical decisions."

Two days after the protest and Slater's prayer, the Board of Medicine approved the proposal.

Meanwhile, Albuquerque,

N.M., voters will have the opportunity to make their city the first in the country to enact a ban on abortions 20 weeks or more into pregnancy.

In a 5-4 vote, the Albuquerque City Council set Nov. 19 for a special election on the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Ordinance, according to the Albuquerque Journal.

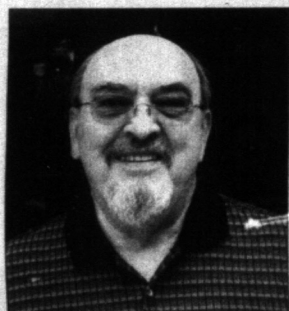
The measure, which would permit an exception for endangerment of the mother's life, is set at halfway through pregnancy, based on scientific evidence that an unborn child at that stage of

development experiences pain.

Operation Rescue, which monitors health and safety violations by abortion clinics nationwide, has labeled Albuquerque as the late-term abortion capital of America. Southwestern Women's Options is the country's largest late-term abortion clinic in the country, according to the pro-life organization.

The City Council approved the special election date after supporters of the ordinance gained more than twice the 12,000 or so signatures needed for it to qualify for the ballot.

College News



Jimmy Morrison (left) has received the Order of the Golden Arrow Award at **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**. The Mississippi College National Alumni Association selects an alumnus or friend of the institution making outstanding personal or professional achievements during their careers. The winners are exceptional people who have shown extraordinary leadership skills over the years. Morrison graduated in 1964 and is a retired certified financial planner. He shares the award with 1967 Mississippi College graduate John R. Weisz, a Newton, Mississippi native and psychology professor at Harvard Medical School. Morrison, Weisz and other alumni award winners will be honored at a Homecoming dinner at MC's Anderson Hall on October 25 beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For more information, contact Lori Bobo of the Alumni Affairs Office at (601) 925-3252. Sharon Martin (right) has been selected as the **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** Alumna of the Year. A physician at the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield since 1996 and longtime MC supporter, Martin will join others receiving honors at the Christian university's Alumni Awards Dinner on October 25. The Friday evening program at Anderson Hall on the Clinton campus begins at 6 p.m. A 1972 MC biology graduate, Martin earned her medical degree Magna Cum Laude from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1983. Her medical practice was at the Mississippi State Board of Health from 1985 through 1991. She served a psychiatry residency at UMC in Jackson from 1991 through 1996 before joining the Mississippi State Hospital in Rankin County.

In College News:

► **Mississippi College** advanced a few notches in the latest "U.S. News & World Report" survey to earn a ranking of 27th among the best regional universities in the South. The ranking in the magazine's fall college guide released in September places MC in a tie with Campbell University of North Carolina. Last fall, MC was in 30th place in "U.S. News & World Report" in the same category. Mississippi College tops such Southern regional institutions as Radford University in Virginia,

Tennessee Tech, Western Kentucky, Marshall University in West Virginia and Western Carolina.

► **William Carey University** held an International Student Welcome Party on September 12 in the Student Conference Center. The event offered students a chance to enjoy food, games, door prizes, and fellowship as they learned about different ways to get involved on campus. There are currently 112 international students from 36 different countries. Of those 112, 80 are returning students.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Gailee First Church, Gloucester:** Revival, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6 p.m.; various guest preachers and singers from around south Mississippi; Brian Malone, pastor.

► **Ted Church, Louin:** Revival, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; H.C. Bailey, speaker; James Schumaker, pastor.

► **Unity Church, Leesville:** Centennial Anniversary, Sept. 29; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon fellowship.

► **Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle:** Homecoming, Sept. 29; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch, singing, and fellowship; Gary Linville, speaker; The Foyer Boyz, music; Bobby Butler, pastor.

► **First Church, Inverness:** Centennial celebration, Sept. 29; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon singing.

► **Tomnolen Church,**

Eupora: 100th anniversary, Sept. 29; services, 10:30 a.m., with a time of remembering and worship, followed by lunch and fellowship; Jim Futral, speaker.

► **Topisaw Church, Bogue Chitto:** Homecoming, Sept. 29; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Bill Miller, speaker.

► **Coldwater Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Savell, speaker; Larron Johnson, music.

► **First Church, Shannon:** Revival, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Phil Glisson, speaker; Don Chandler, music.

► **Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg:** 130th anniversary and homecoming, Sept. 29; services, 10 a.m.; Tommy Mitchell, speaker; Big Blessings Quartet, music.

► **High Hill Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.;

Randall Creel, speaker.


► **Center Hill Church, Hamilton:** Sesquicentennial service, Sept. 29; fellowship, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and singing; Terry Edwards, pastor.

► **Academy Church, Blue Mountain:** Homecoming, Sept. 29; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Titus Tyler, speaker; Heavens Mountain Band, music; Wayne Cobb, pastor.

► **County Line Church, Union:** Revival, Sept. 29 - Oct. 2; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Don Boone, speaker; Randy Boone, music; David Jay, pastor.

► **Fredonia Church, New Albany:** Homecoming and 140th anniversary, Sept. 29; services, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Tom Sumrall, speaker; Ike Aslin, music.

► **Belden Church Belden:** Homecoming, Sept. 29; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; John Mark Jarrett, speaker; Jim Holcomb, pastor.



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BIBL i O C I P H E R

CEA BLHV YCWVPB ELP CMBCYVA;

UVKCQMV PBV DLZV LJ RLA NM MBVA

CUFLCA NE LQF BVCFFM UT PBV BLDT

RBLMP IBNKB NM RNZVE QEPL QM FLY-

CEM JNZV: JNZV

Clue: R = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 4:24

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

MS POSITIONS

SYLVA RENA BAPTIST CHURCH IN WATER VALLEY, MS IS LOOKING FOR FULL TIME PASTOR. Send resume to Sylva Rena Baptist Church, 17640 Hwy 32, Water Valley MS, 38965

MINISTER OF STUDENTS / ASSOCIATE PASTOR - BROOKSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH. Job Description available on website www.brooksideob.com. Send cover letter and resume to: Brookside Baptist Church, Personnel Team 4993 Hwy 302 E. Olive Branch, MS 38654

THE MISSISSIPPI LINCOLN COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. All interested parties please submit a resume to LBA, P.O. Box 363, Brookhaven, MS 39602 or e-mail to linbapt@cablone.net. All resumes must be submitted or postmarked by October 4, 2013.

GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, NANIH WAIYA (NEAR LOUISVILLE) IS SEEKING A FULL TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH&CHILDREN. Send resumes to 12956 Hwy 490 Louisville Ms 39339

CLEAR BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH, WESSON, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to: Clear Branch Baptist Church, 2166 Clear Branch Lane NE, Wesson, MS 39191

UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601, ATTENTION: Youth Director Search Committee.

DUCK HILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN DUCK HILL, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT PASTOR/MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please e-mail resumes to dhbc_secretary@yahoo.com

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NAMB targets continued drop in baptism with national task force

NASHVILLE (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is convening a national Pastors' Task Force on Evangelistic Impact & Declining Baptisms to address the continued decrease in baptisms among Southern Baptist churches.

The group's first meeting was Sept. 18 in Nashville.

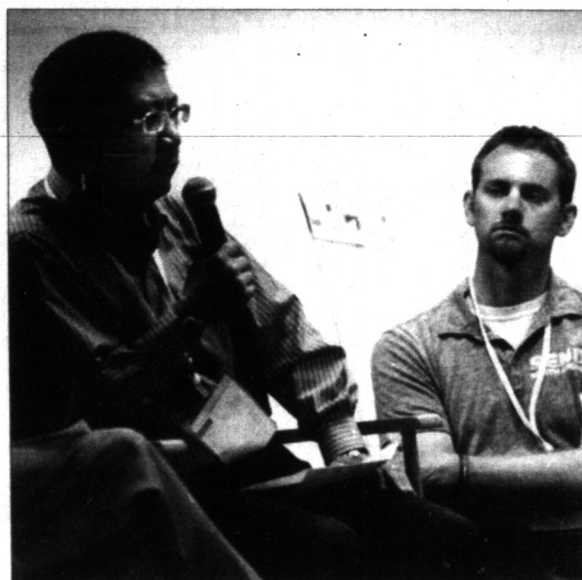
The 2012 Annual Church Profile reported a drop of 5.52% in the number of baptisms in Southern Baptist churches, confirming a two-decade downward trend. The most recent accounting marked the first time since 1948 that baptisms dropped below 315,000.

From 1950-2011, Southern Baptists baptized an average of 379,711 people annually. Only twice during that time did the numbers dip more than 10% below that average, but in 2012 the decline was 13% off the average. That was the worst drop in 62 years.

"Southern Baptists leaders are concerned," said Al Gilbert, NAMB's vice president of evangelism. "Our baptismal trends are all headed in the wrong direction. With a burden to penetrate lostness in North America, we must pray and think through what we can and should do to turn around this decline."

Gilbert is facilitating the group's sessions along with LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer. In addition to the first meeting in Nashville, the task force will meet multiple times via conference calls and face-to-face meetings, with the goal of completing its work by May 2014.

Prior to the meeting, Los Angeles pastor Benny Wong



STUDYING BAPTISMS — Benny Wong (left), pastor of First Chinese Church in Los Angeles, speaks during a Send North America Conference breakout session. Wong is serving on the North American Mission Board's task force addressing the decline of baptisms among Southern Baptist churches. (BP photo)

said one way churches will see increased baptisms is to narrow their concentration. "We need to focus again on the most important mandate for the church today, which is the Great Commission. We need to observe the past to understand some issues, but the real need is to concentrate on the most important areas."

"In the past 20 years we have had some struggles as a church, but as we focus on the primary things, the so-called problems are not as important."

In its first 40 years, First Chinese planted five churches, Wong said. Following a long gap in planting, the church planted a new church four years ago with 12 people. It now has 200. A second plant just launched.

"There is no magic," Wong said. "It is not complicated. It is going back to the basics and following God's leading in obedience. If we only focus on the secondary issues, we will miss out on what is most important in the eyes of God."

Alvin Reid, professor of evangelism and student ministry and Bailey Smith Chair of Evangelism at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., echoed Wong's thoughts.

"Obviously evangelism is of primary importance to Southern Baptists, and our primary means of evaluating evangelism is baptisms. It is not the best means, but it is the best one we have. We need some metrics to determine how we are doing."

"Anytime Southern Baptists have faced a major issue, they have called together leaders to address the challenge. This is certainly an important issue. This task force will actually attempt to accomplish something strategically."

I have said for years that we as Southern Baptists should put on sackcloth and ashes and have an annual day of fasting and prayer on this issue."

Gilbert said the most recent ACP was the final catalyst in bringing the pastors' task force together.

"There has been a lot of discussion about this issue for years. Southern Baptists have talked about declining baptisms but haven't figured out a way to own it. I thought it was important to pull together pastors from different regions and backgrounds to address the issue. We want to dialog about how we can help take meaningful action."

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Blackaby has quadruple bypass surgery

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist Bible teacher Henry Blackaby underwent quadruple bypass surgery Sept. 24 after suffering a heart attack while driving in Atlanta, becoming confused and traveling for 29 hours before police found him Sept. 20 in Tifton, Ga., 150 miles southeast of his home.

"He has from 70% to 100% blockage," the Blackaby family said in a statement posted on the Blackaby Ministries International website Sept. 23. "The doctor also says one area is not functioning and might have been damaged by an undetected heart attack as much as five years ago. It is amazing how God has preserved Henry and enabled him to continue ministering with his heart functioning far below what it should be."

The statement requested prayer "for a successful procedure"

and for "new energy and clarity [for Blackaby] to serve the Lord for many years to come." It also spoke of God's "watch care over Henry."

"If he had not experienced this recent heart attack, doctors might not have been alerted to his condition," the statement said.

"He has been empowered by God," Blackaby's son Richard said Monday on Twitter of his father's perseverance in ministry. The previous day, Richard Blackaby tweeted, "He's in good spirits, joking with staff."

Henry Blackaby, 78, had been missing since Sept. 19, around 4 p.m. from his home in Rex, Ga., in metro Atlanta. He was on his way to pick up his wife Marilyn from

an appointment when he suffered the heart attack and became disoriented, according to a statement posted Saturday on the Blackaby Ministries International website.

"He did not have his cell phone with him nor insulin for his diabetes," the statement said. "As a result, his blood sugar rose and his kidneys began to struggle as well. The family was able to track his movements as he used a credit card to make occasional purchases. The police assigned a detective group to monitor his movements and to track him down."

"Hundreds of volunteers, many from his church at First Baptist Church Jonesboro, GA drove all over the city looking for him."

The statement added, "It is



BLACKABY

Overnight Trail Ride slated for Oct. 11-12 at Central Hills

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — The second annual Mississippi Baptist Overnight Trail Ride will be held Oct. 11-12 at Central Hills Retreat near West.

"Central Hills Retreat is a phenomenal place to ride horses. Retreat manager Jim Ray and his staff do a splendid job of maintaining the trails and hosting this event," said Don Lum, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson.

The MBCB Evangelism Department and Central Hills Retreat are sponsoring the ride, which is open to all ages and not limited to Baptists. "Last year's inaugural ride attracted a number of families who rode together," Lum said.

Featured speaker will be Sammy Gilbreath, state missionary

and director of evangelism for the Board of Missions of the Alabama Baptist State Convention in Montgomery.

"Sammy Gilbreath is a gifted speaker and Bible teacher who has remarkable personal and spiritual testimonies. We will be blessed by his message from God to us," Lum said.

Participants must bring their own horses, and up-to-date Coggins is required. Cost is \$45 per person, which includes overnight housing or RV hookup, three meals, and insurance. Cost for children under 10 years of age is \$35. Local riders can participate in the Saturday morning ride for \$15, which includes lunch. Children under 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Participants may arrive after 3 p.m. on Oct. 11. Dinner and ac-

tivities on Oct. 11 begin at 6 p.m. Breakfast on Oct. 12 will be at 8 a.m., with the ride following at 9:30 a.m. The event will conclude with lunch on Oct. 12.

The Overnight Trail Ride is limited to 60 overnight guests, so early registration is recommended. To register, contact Debbie Ramage at Central Hills Retreat at dramage@mbcb.org, or (662) 289-9730.

For more information, Lum can be contacted at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3280 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 280. E-mail address: dlum@mbcb.org.

The Overnight Trail Ride is funded in part by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard

copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

The Power to Give Life • John 4:1-15, 25-26

I often seem to find myself in the most unique settings. A few weeks ago I was at Lackey Memorial Hospital in Forest, Mississippi, Room 204, preparing to baptize a man by the name of Joe Martin. Surrounded by family and some members of the hospital staff, the baptism celebration began.

Allow me to share with you how I arrived at this point. Joe is 85 years old and is a retired musician and mechanic. Most could only imagine the life he has lived. He and his band, The Jacksonians, performed all around the country. He gained notoriety while playing on the WWL radio station in New Orleans making the acquaintance of such singers as Elvis Presley and Loretta Lynn. Joe and his band were the musical entertainment at the wedding of Hank Williams, Sr. Joe Martin even starred in the movie Johnny Guitar with screen legend Joan Crawford.

You would be hard-pressed to find someone in Scott County that doesn't know Joe and Irene Martin and furthermore; have a Joe Martin story to tell. Joe's wife Irene teaches piano and is an accomplished pianist. Their home is beautiful and full of history. It is the

oldest standing house in the county, close to 200 years old.

In the preceding few sentences I have shared with you about Joe, but it does not tell you who Joe is. The day before his baptism, Joe was lost and in need of a Savior. While he was liked by all that knew him, a hard worker, incredible story-teller and talented guitar player, he was also not prepared to die. Early in the morning hours on August 28th

Joe expressed to the nurse his need for God's grace and forgiveness. You remember the "hospital staff" I mentioned

in the first paragraph? Well, one of Joe's nurses is named Brenda and God used her to share Christ and the Gospel with Joe and he believed. Another nurse who is also Joe's niece is named Kathy. God used her to set up the make-shift baptism in his hospital room. She

also led us in Amazing Grace after the baptism was completed. The Nurse Practitioner in Room 204 that day was named Ruth. God used Ruth in helping Joe the last few weeks as he struggled with pain. Ruth also would sit with Joe long after she had clocked out and was off duty. In the weeks since that wonderful day I have spent time reflecting. It was one of the greatest experiences of my ministry and one I am certain I will never forget.

Now you may be asking, "Where is the usual outline and Sunday School commentary found in this part of the paper?" Stop right now and read John 4:1-42 and I think you will see why. Jesus met people where they were, how they were and in His own timing. It is one thing to read a Bible study, it is quite another to apply and relate to one. You and I

pass by numerous people each day that need a transforming encounter with Christ. We are the body of Christ, His representatives on Earth. Get out there and be the salt and light in your community.

What happened to Joe? I am glad you asked. Following his salvation, he exhibited a peace like never before. He asked others to voice a prayer before leaving his room; he was at peace with God. God called Joe from this life on September 15th. God received Joe Martin based on the work of the cross and His incredible grace. Hundreds attended the visitation and memorial services, but the most important number in my mind was one. Jesus, the One and only, gave His life for you, me and all the "Joes" of the world. Who is the "Joe" in your community, family or workplace that you need to share Christ with? I am praying for you as you seek to live out the Gospel and who knows, I may bump into you coming out of a hospital room.

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.



Explore the Bible

with Bobby McKay

The Pressure of Conflict • James 4:1-10

The principles of the world are many, selfish and yes, pleasurable. In the first century James is saying we need to be crucified to the world and to be unimpressed by its attractions. The world is skillful in stifling spiritual values. Big wars are caused by nations wanting that which does not belong to them, and same for individuals. Selfishness is the root. James takes it to a deeper realm by saying these causes can be dispelled by praying, but with the caveat that we must pray with the right motive. Be done with our selfishness.

God answers prayers but is keenly aware of selfishness. Do we Americans become mastered by our desire for excess? Pleasure seekers become friends of the world and, before we know it, we become enemies of God, the gracious giver of all things good. Simply put, conflicts arise when we don't get what we want. This happens to two-year-old toddlers who exert unbelievable energy to let their displeasure be known. Unhappily, some adults who are chosen as world leaders are still in the demand stage of the toddlers, and are in dire need of being born again.

The 4th chapter of James gives us a seminal view of how to identify our hedonistic life style (from back in the middle of the first century yet). Vs. 6-10

are invaluable in getting us to examine our motives. V. 6 states He gives us more grace (a greater grace). That is God doing for us what we can't do for ourselves. Commit your daily activities and concentrations to a living, loving God who is more than willing and more than able. It's always cleansing to analyze our spirituality, friendliness, our giving habits, study habits, etc. James is advising us to get closer to God and sever our worldly attachment.

V. 8 is gigantically big - "Come near to God and He will come near to you." Once you've seen your foolish double-mindedness, V. 9 says grieve, mourn, wail and change. He goes on in V. 10 to say remember yourself as a sinner and take the lowly place, and then God will lift you up in His time. (Being humble means we juxtapose our inabilities and recognize our need for full dependence on God). Humility says to God "your providential care is sufficient." Does

this remove all conflicts in our lives? Not! Conflicts prick us to turn quickly back to God and to ask humbly, "What do I do now, God? You're in control, so show me." We come to see that God is the master of conflict resolutions. The little book of James crucifies the self-help volumes on the book store shelves.

We cannot be loyal to both God and the callings of the world. God has wonderful surprises for each of us, and when

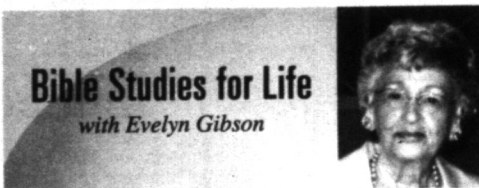
we resist the devil's plan we will see him (the devil) take flight. Being freed from the grips of the evil one's principles of greed, selfishness and worldly pleasures is the most relaxed you can ever be. Oh, happy day! James got it right. Do you ever think about giving more and expecting less?

Personal resolution is a powerful deterrent to the devil. We can come near to God through regular worship in church, prayer, and Bible study. Again, draw near to Him and He will draw near

to you. Miraculously you will experience a melting away of personal conflict (relationship) problems, and begin to see growth, maturation and become freed from baggage. How amazing is it that God made and is in control of the entire universe, but at the same time has specific plans for each individual. Just try to do one day at the time and soak up His amazing grace.

The value of the peace you experience in your personal life is indescribable when you have successfully humbled yourself before the Almighty God. You have resisted the devil, have rid yourself of known sins, and gotten close to the Savior. This reminds me of that famous picture of a little robin nestled in the cleft of a big rock on the seashore as a horrendous storm rages on the other side of the rock, bashing it with strong waves of water and high winds. The little bird is snuggled up there dry, relaxed and asleep. Mt. 11:28-29 (NIV Study Bible) says in red letters "Come to me, all ye who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.



Bible Studies for Life

with Evelyn Gibson

OBITUARY

Wade Allen, 87, died September 13 at the North MS Medical Center in Tupelo. He was born on May 12, 1926 to Thomas and Mary Clark Allen. He married Betty Brown on July 2, 1948. He served as pastor at Meador View Mission, Ocean Springs; Coy Mission, Philadelphia; Pine Grove Church, Heidelberg; Ovett Church, Ovett; Wildwood Church, Laurel (Associate Pastor); Westwood (former Key Field) Church, Meridian; Hickory Church, Hickory; Union

Church, Seminary; First Church of Lyman, Gulfport; Indian Springs Church, Laurel; Pontotoc County Baptist Association, Pontotoc (Director of Missions) and served as a judge in the Mississippi Bible Drills for many years. He was listed in Who's Who in Religion. He served in the United States Military: US Navy 1944-46; US Air Force 1947-51. He was a member of First Church of Pontotoc.

A Celebration of Life Service was held September

19, at 11:00 am at the First Church of Pontotoc with Lewis Harrell officiating. Burial followed in the City of Pontotoc Memorial Park.

He is survived by his wife; Betty Allen of Pontotoc; two daughters-Barbara Wiggins (Bruce) of Lakeland, Fla., and Carol Gates (Barry) of Orlando, Fla.; two sons-Wade Allen, Jr. (Laura) of Suffolk, Va. and Carey Allen (Rebecca) of Sardis; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Major League slugger renews faith as career zooms

BALTIMORE (BP) — Three years ago, life was so different for Chris Davis. The Baltimore Orioles slugger was adrift on a sea of uncertainty, searching for answers as swells of career failure buffeted him.

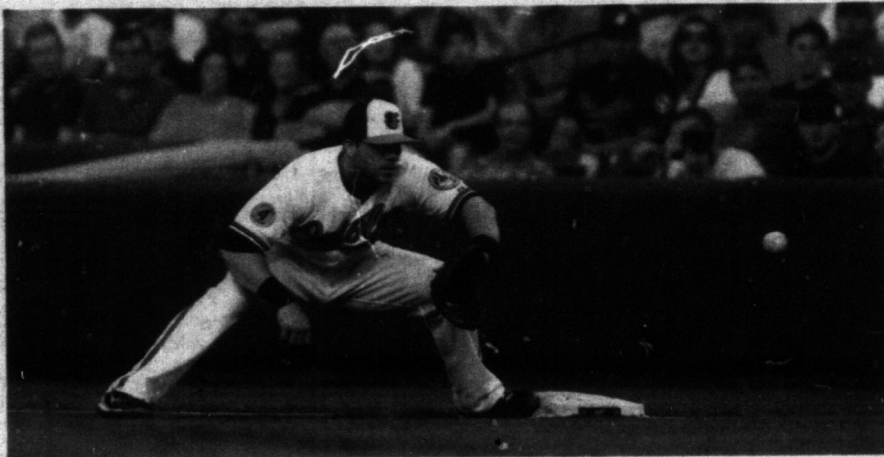
Yes, baseball is just a game — but it was also Davis' livelihood and his ship was taking on water fast. Retirement by age 25 was a painfully realistic option.

Called up on Sept. 11, 2010, by the Texas Rangers for his third major league stint that season, Davis was struggling. His greatest asset, his power, was virtually nonexistent. In the final 14 games of that season, he totaled one home run, one RBI and hit .211, which actually raised his season batting average to .192.

The Rangers, en route to the first of two straight World Series appearances, left him off their postseason roster. Ten months later, after another round of unmet expectations, Davis was traded to the Orioles, carrying with him the dreaded "4A player" label — a prospect who dominates Triple-A but can't figure out the big leagues.

What a difference a few years can make. In a shocking transformation over the last two seasons, Davis, 27, suddenly has become one of the major league's premier sluggers. Through Sept. 19, the left-handed first baseman aptly nicknamed "Crush" Davis was leading the league in home runs (51) and total bases (354) and was ranked second behind Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in RBI (134), slugging percentage (.641) and on-base-plus-slugging percentage (1.013).

Last year, he led the Orioles to their first playoff berth since



CHRIS DAVIS

1997 with what was then career highs in home runs (33) and RBI (85), and he has the team in the postseason hunt again this year with far greater production.

He earned American League player of the month honors in April, became a first-time All-Star in July and graced the cover of Sports Illustrated in August. This all raises the question: What happened?

Davis, a soft-spoken Texas native, credits regular playing time as the driving factor behind his career resurgence. "Just consistency. Being in the lineup every day and knowing where I'm going to hit in the lineup, being at first base."

Could it be that simple? Can the transformation from unwanted, aging prospect to bona fide superstar really boil down to a couple hundred more at-bats a year? It seems so, considering Davis' natural abilities

that just needed to be unlocked.

However, for a Christian like Davis, his remarkable career path also speaks to a sovereign God who has outlined a unique course for him, filled with tough, life-shaping lessons.

"Looking back, I've grown so much not only as a man but as a Christian, knowing that there are times when it looks like there's no end in sight, no light at the end of the tunnel, but if you continue to put your faith in God, He'll never steer you wrong," he said.

After being drafted by the Rangers in the fifth round in 2006, Davis immediately began bullying minor league pitchers, hitting .302 with 74 home runs and 233 RBI in 275 minor league games over his first three professional seasons.

He debuted for Texas in June 2008 at age 22, and clubbed 17 home runs with 55 RBI and

a .285 batting average over the next 80 games. The future looked bright.

The 2009 season was a disaster. When he was optioned to Triple-A in early July, Davis was hitting .202 and leading the majors with 114 strikeouts in 80 games. For the next two years, he shuttled between the majors and minors at a dizzying rate.

Davis, who doesn't think he got a chance to prove himself in Texas, played only 45 games for the Rangers in 2010 and 28 in 2011. It was a frustrating time for a young player trying to make his mark.

Spiritually, Davis was floundering. He grew up attending First Church in Longview, Texas, and was baptized at age six. For a long time, Christianity was more ritual than relationship to him. He thought it was about church attendance and managing guilt.

He didn't fully understand yet the glorious realities of the Gospel, that Jesus Christ died to free him from sin and striving.

The Lord was mercifully working on his heart. A humbling trip to the Dominican Republic for winter ball after the 2010 season helped refocus his faith. So did getting engaged to his wife Jill and the friendly counsel of former Rangers teammates David Murphy and Josh Hamilton, who encouraged him to spend time with God every day.

"It was more of a daily routine, making sure I was in the Word and praying and knowing what it meant to walk with the Lord," Davis said. "We'd have chapel on Sundays. We'd talk about what was going on. The fact that they were older gave me more perspective."

When Davis hit .362 with a team-high five home runs and 18 RBI in 2011 spring training and still started the regular season in the minor leagues, he knew his time in Texas was limited. By then, he had developed a different outlook on the fickle nature of the game. He had learned to trust God and not wring his hands over every at-bat.

"I got to the point where, when I was at the field, I was going to work hard and do everything I could to be the best player I could be, and when I went home, I was going to enjoy my time," he said. "I was going to enjoy being around my friends, my wife, and really try not to think about what was going on in baseball. I think that was really the biggest point — knowing that it is a game."

First Person: Bubble is comfortable, but not where we need to be

By Todd Peebles
Correspondent

It is easy to live life in the Bubble of "people just like me, who do many of the same things I do." The Bubble isolates Christians from the world, disengages them from ministry to the lost, and gives a false sense of security.

The looming question is, how do we exit the Bubble? We do not just wake up one day and the Bubble is gone. I wish it were that easy, but it's a process.

The first step is actually one of the most painful. We must come to terms with our complacency with the Gospel. Living in the Bubble greatly hinders our ability to reach out with the Gospel message of hope.

I am reminded of Luke 10, where Jesus tells His disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest because workers are needed. The journey that we continue is difficult. Getting outside the Bubble takes effort.

The second step is to do whatever it takes to engage those around us with the Gospel. We are the workers for the harvest! We must be people of prayer. In prayer, we must seek the face of God.

We must be willing to submit ourselves to His will.

Thirdly, to move outside the Bubble we must start praying for the lost by name. If we are to become workers in the harvest, we must start praying for that harvest. It has to be more than, "God bless the lost."

If we believers are not praying for the lost by name, we assume it doesn't matter — "Someone will reach them. Someone else will step up. They have to because I don't know any lost people."

Praying for the lost by name will do great things in our hearts. First, we are calling names before God of someone who desperately needs His grace.

Secondly, God begins to burden our own hearts because the lost are now people we know. It's personal! God begins to move in our own hearts as we intercede for salvation for the people we know.

Thirdly, a sense of urgency develops as we begin to strategize to reach those lost people.

Prayer is the catalyst that begins the

process of moving outside the Bubble, but while prayer is foundational it is not the only thing that must happen. As Luke 10 indicates, we must be involved with the unsaved.

This is the part of the journey that requires intentionality. We must seek opportunities to engage with people outside the Bubble. Again, prayer will play a vital role in the beginning of this process, as God will reveal those opportunities. We must be willing to take them.

Sometimes this takes us out of our comfort zone. It may mean talking to someone we do not know. It may mean breaking our normal routines to seek new opportunities. There are many different ways this may unfold, but we must be willing to submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit within our lives.

One of the hardest parts of this journey is spending quality time with those in need of God's saving grace. Through quality time, we begin to better know people. We know their hurts, their joys, and even their needs

at their present point in life. Giving time is difficult, especially with our busy, driven schedules, but it is an intentional, necessary step in meeting people and developing relationships.

This journey may seem daunting. The very thought of spending time with tax collectors and sinners may not be high on our priority list. Obviously this is the case, since we are living inside the Bubble.

It's time to make new priorities. Let's seek the Lord of the harvest for workers. Let's pray for the harvest, the lost, and each other. Let's seek new opportunities even if that takes us to uncomfortable places. Let's make time to build relationships in hopes of sharing the Gospel.

I challenge each of you as you read this to make the choice and commitment to live outside the Bubble. I am intentional in my journey to get out of the Bubble. Will you begin this journey with me to be the people God intends for us to be for His glory alone?

Peebles is pastor of Hillcrest Church in San Angelo, Texas. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.



PEEBLES